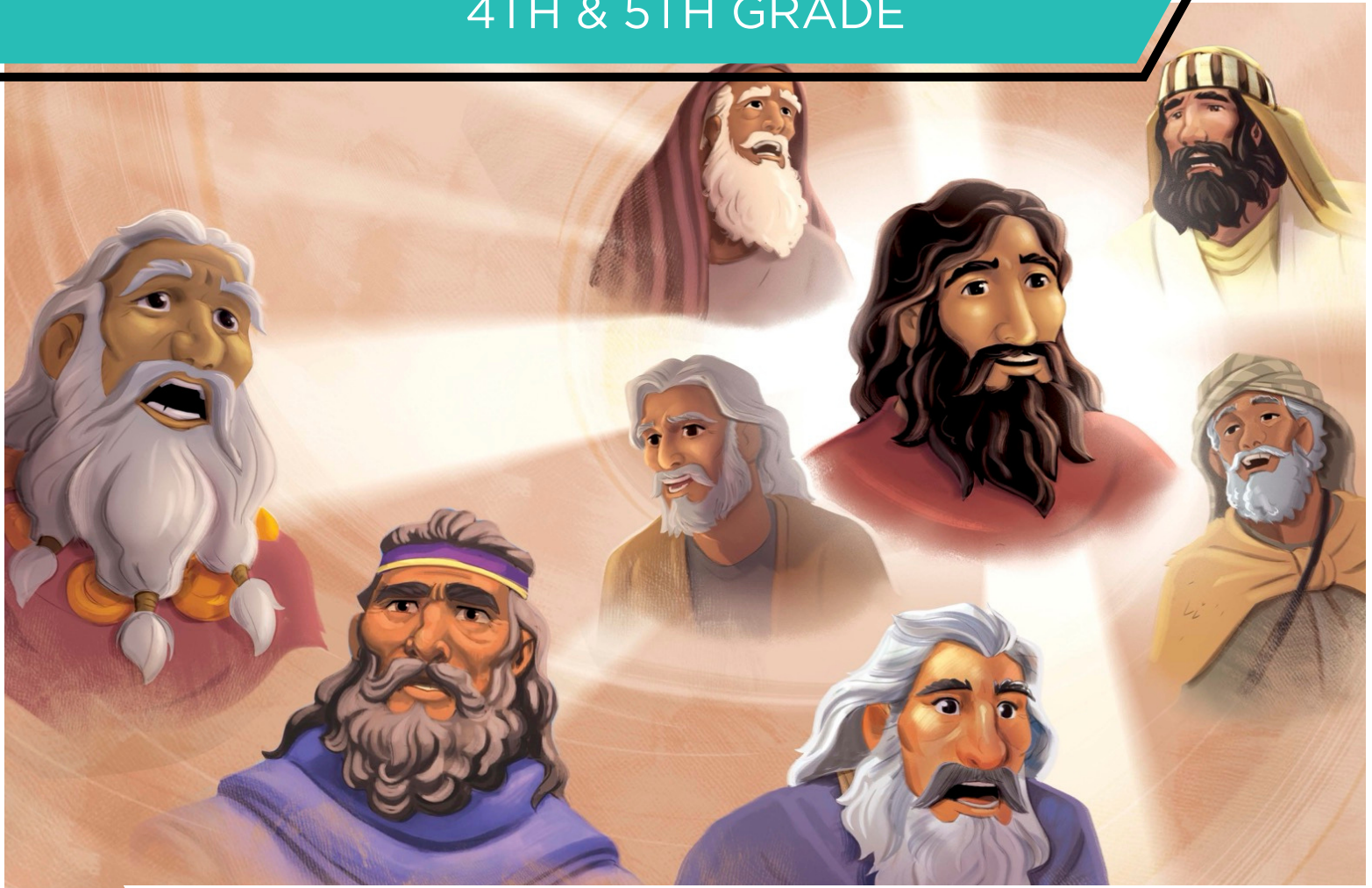


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



NOVEMBER 9, 2025

PROPHETS TO JUDAH

MICAH; NAHUM; HABAKKUK; ZEPHANIAH

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent prophets to His people to warn them to repent of their sin and turn to God. Jesus gave the same message, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." When we put our trust in Jesus, we are restored to a right relationship with God and have the hope of eternal life.

LEADER DEVO

While the Northern Kingdom of Israel had been destroyed by Assyria, the Southern Kingdom of Judah remained. During the years prior to Babylonian captivity, God continued to send prophets to Judah who called the people to repent of their sin. Even though the prophets pronounced the impending captivity, they also offered hope to the people: God would restore His people and provide salvation.

The prophet Micah spoke to the leaders of Israel regarding their ill-earned wealth. Micah called the leaders of Israel to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Micah also shared a message of future hope: one day, God would send a new King who would be born in Bethlehem and rule over the restored people of God.

Nahum was another prophet sent to testify to God's judgment on sin. Nahum described how God would judge Assyria for its bloodshed, evil, and injustice. Nahum's message was a reminder to be faithful to God and a warning to not act like other evil nations, like Assyria.

Zephaniah begged the people to turn away from sin while there was still time. He showed that God will judge all the evil nations along with Judah.

Habakkuk spoke directly to God, asking Him why He would not stop the violence and sin of the people of Judah. God told Habakkuk that He will indeed judge the people and will bring destruction to the nation through Babylon. While Babylon would destroy Judah, Habakkuk also said he would celebrate in the Lord. Even in desolation and despair, God's people could rejoice in the hope of salvation.

God sent prophets to share the message of judgment, repentance, and restoration. Jesus willingly took on our judgment so we could turn from our sin and be restored to Him. When we trust in Jesus, we are restored to a right relationship with God.

This week, encourage kids to see God's goodness through His Word. Like the prophets to Judah proclaimed a message of hope, the Word of God shares good news: Jesus died and rose again to save people from sin and death. Rejoice in the God of salvation!

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is
over all that he has made.

Psalms 145:9



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

NOV 23

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

Especially for memorizing longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once. Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those five words memorized, add another five or so words.

LESSON

God loved His people so much that He sent messengers, or prophets, who called the people to repent of their sin so they could be restored to a right relationship with God.

The prophet Micah said that God was going to judge the wicked leaders of His people. They had become rich by stealing from others. Micah warned that God would send foreign nations to destroy Israel, and called the people to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Micah's message also included hope—he said that God would one day send a new king from the line of David, who would be born in Bethlehem and rule over the restored people of God.

Years later, God gave a message for the prophet Nahum to share. The main message of Nahum's writings is this: "God is slow to anger and great in power. He will not let the wicked go free." Nahum comforted God's people and gave them hope by showing that God will punish their enemies, the evil nations and empires that love violence. Nahum's message was also a warning to not act like these nations, and to remain faithful to God.

Zephaniah was another prophet. He saw that the nation of Judah was going to be judged for worshiping idols and that God would send a great nation to destroy the city of Jerusalem. Zephaniah begged the people to turn away from sin while there was still time, so that they might be spared from God's righteous anger against sin. Zephaniah said that God will also judge all the evil nations and Judah because they acted like these evil nations..

The prophet Habakkuk was also sent to the people of Judah. Habakkuk spoke directly to God, asking Him why He would not stop the violence and sin of the people of Judah. God responded by saying He would gather the army of Babylon to destroy Judah. God shared that even though this disaster would come, the righteous will live by faith in Him. Habakkuk ends his message by pleading for God to be merciful to His people. Even though God's judgment would come, Habakkuk said: "I will celebrate in the Lord; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!"

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent prophets to His people to warn them to repent of their sin and turn to God. Jesus gave the same message, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." When we trust in Jesus, we are restored to a right relationship with God and have the hope of eternal life.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

ICEBREAKERS

QUESTION: REPEAT DAY

If you could relive one day of your life, what day would it be?

ACTIVITY: NINJA

Start by gathering in a huddle with everyone's hand in the middle. When one of the leaders says, "Go," everyone should jump backwards and freeze. One at a time, players can make one movement to try to tag someone else's hand or arm. That player can also make one movement to avoid being hit, but once a movement is made, they must freeze again.

The goal of this game is to be the last one standing. If your arm/hand gets hit by another player, that arm is out. Once both arms are gone, you are out.

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) What is a prophet? Why did God have them?

Prophet: a messenger of God's Word

2) Why don't we have prophets like Micah and Nahum today? (See also: John 14:9).

3) Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah are all part of the minor prophets. What's the distinction between the major and minor prophets?

- The length of the books is the only thing that makes it either a major or minor prophetic book. The longer books (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.) are known as the major and the shorter books (Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, etc.) are known as the minor. There is no difference in the value or truth of any of the prophetic books, major or minor. Each is part of Scripture and therefore profitable for teaching (2 Timothy 3:16).
- Lamentations is the exception to this rule, as it is considered a major prophetic book, yet only contains 5 chapters. This is because many scholars attribute the authorship of Lamentations to Jeremiah and consider it part of his overall writings.

4) Read Micah 6:8. What does this verse tell us about what God wants of us?

5) Read Habakkuk 2:4. What does it mean to live by faith? How can you practice that this week?

PRAYER

Take time to ask your group for any prayer requests or praises they have for this upcoming week. Invite kids to pray for each other and/or pray as a group for all the requests.

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!